

REMARKS

The application has been amended as needed so as to place it in condition for disposal at the time of the next Official Action.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the German reference 4,320,454. The Official Action states that the German reference discloses a detachable trolley and mop bucket combination comprising a mop bucket supported by wheels thereon and movable over a floor surface. The reference indicates that both buckets are mop buckets, one containing the disinfecting liquid and the second one containing the dirty water, and a trolley having a frame adapted for carrying cleaning supplies supported by wheels thereon for moving over a floor surface. The trolley and buckets are allegedly separately and independently movable and have a connection therebetween for selective attachment to securely connect the trailer to the trolley so that the combined trolley and trailer can be easily maneuvered by one person.

Reconsideration of the above rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

By the present amendment, it will be seen that claims 1-8 have been canceled, and replaced with new claims 9-16. Newly presented independent claim 9 calls for a detachable trolley and mop bucket combination comprising a mop bucket having wheels thereon and movable over a floor surface, and a trolley adapted

for carrying cleaning supplies. The trolley has wheels thereon for moving over a floor surface. The trolley and the bucket are separately and independently movable, and are stably supportable solely by the respective wheels when independent of each other. The combination has a connection between the trolley and bucket for selective attachment to securely connect the mop bucket to the trolley so that the combined trolley and bucket can be easily maneuvered by one person.

It is respectfully submitted that the above claimed characteristic features are neither disclosed, nor suggested by the German reference. Indeed, the arrangement of the German reference clearly fails to disclose or suggest that the trolley and bucket, when independent of each other, can each be stably supported, and thus move solely on the respective wheels, as is presently recited in newly presented independent claim 9.

It is by now well settled that anticipation requires that a prior art reference disclose every claim element as set forth in the claim (see *Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc.*, 1 USPQ2d 1081 (Fed. Cir. 1986)). Similarly, absence of a claim element from a prior art reference negates anticipation (see *Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.*, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir., 1984)).

With the present amendment, new independent claims 15 and 16 are presented herewith. Newly presented independent claim 15 goes to the fact that the trolley and bucket can be rigidly

interconnected to prevent pivoting, as it recites that the trolley and the bucket have a connection between them for selective attachment to securely and rigidly or substantially rigidly connect the mop bucket to the trolley, so that the combined trolley and bucket can be easily maneuvered by one person without relative angular displacement occurring between the trolley and bucket. Support for such a recitation is clearly implicit in the original description, as well as the original figures.

Newly presented independent claim 16 goes to the fact that the trolley and bucket are dockable without lifting one or the other of the bucket and trolley. Indeed, claim 16 calls for the trolley and the bucket to have a docking connection between them for selective attachment without lifting to securely connect the mop bucket and the trolley.

The Primary Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to former claims 2-8 is sincerely appreciated. However, in view of the present amendment, the foregoing remarks, and the accompanying Petition to Revive Under 37 CFR 1.137(b), it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-16 structurally and patentably distinguish from the applied German reference.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be

appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions to that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge the 37 CFR 1.16(h) small entity fee of \$100 for one extra independent claim added herewith under fee code 2201 to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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